

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated November 17, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 13, 15, 17 and 18. The allowance of claims 1-12 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 13, 15, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, on the grounds that they were considered to be anticipated by the newly-cited *Nakamura et al.* patent (U.S. 5,286,418). For the reasons presented below, it is respectfully submitted that the *Nakamura et al.* patent neither anticipates, nor otherwise suggests, the subject matter recited in the currently pending claims.

The present application describes light polarization sensitive materials that are initially isotropic and exhibit photo-induced optical anisotropy when exposed to polarized or non-polarized light. In contrast to the materials disclosed in the *Nakamura et al.* patent, the claimed material can be used not only to produce a common uniform thin film polarizer, but also to produce patterned polarizers and phase retarders, with a required spatial distribution of the polarization property, namely optical anisotropy. Furthermore, the claimed materials can also be used for polarization optical data storage, optical data processing, holography, and other applications, in which high optical resolution is required.


The claimed materials are comprised of photochemical-stable dichroic absorbers that are capable of attaining order when exposed to light, without any destruction or degradation. In contrast, the films disclosed in the *Nakamura et al.* patent exhibit changes in their polarizing ability with UV exposure. Claim 13 has been amended to more explicitly set forth this distinguishing aspect of the invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claim 13, as well as dependent claims 15 and 17-20, is not anticipated by the *Nakamura et al.* patent. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 8, 2005

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